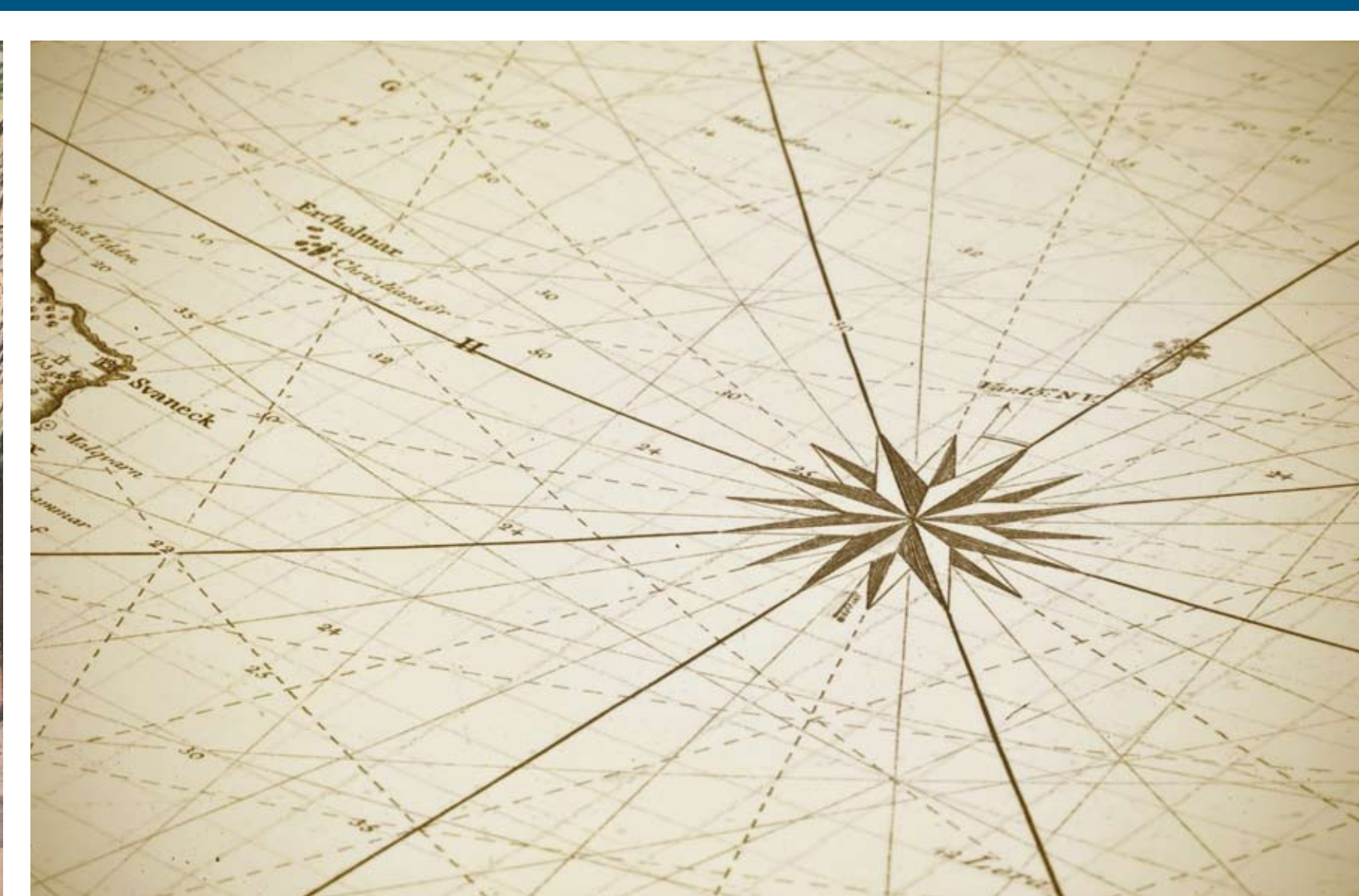




From NAVIGATION & RESTORATION

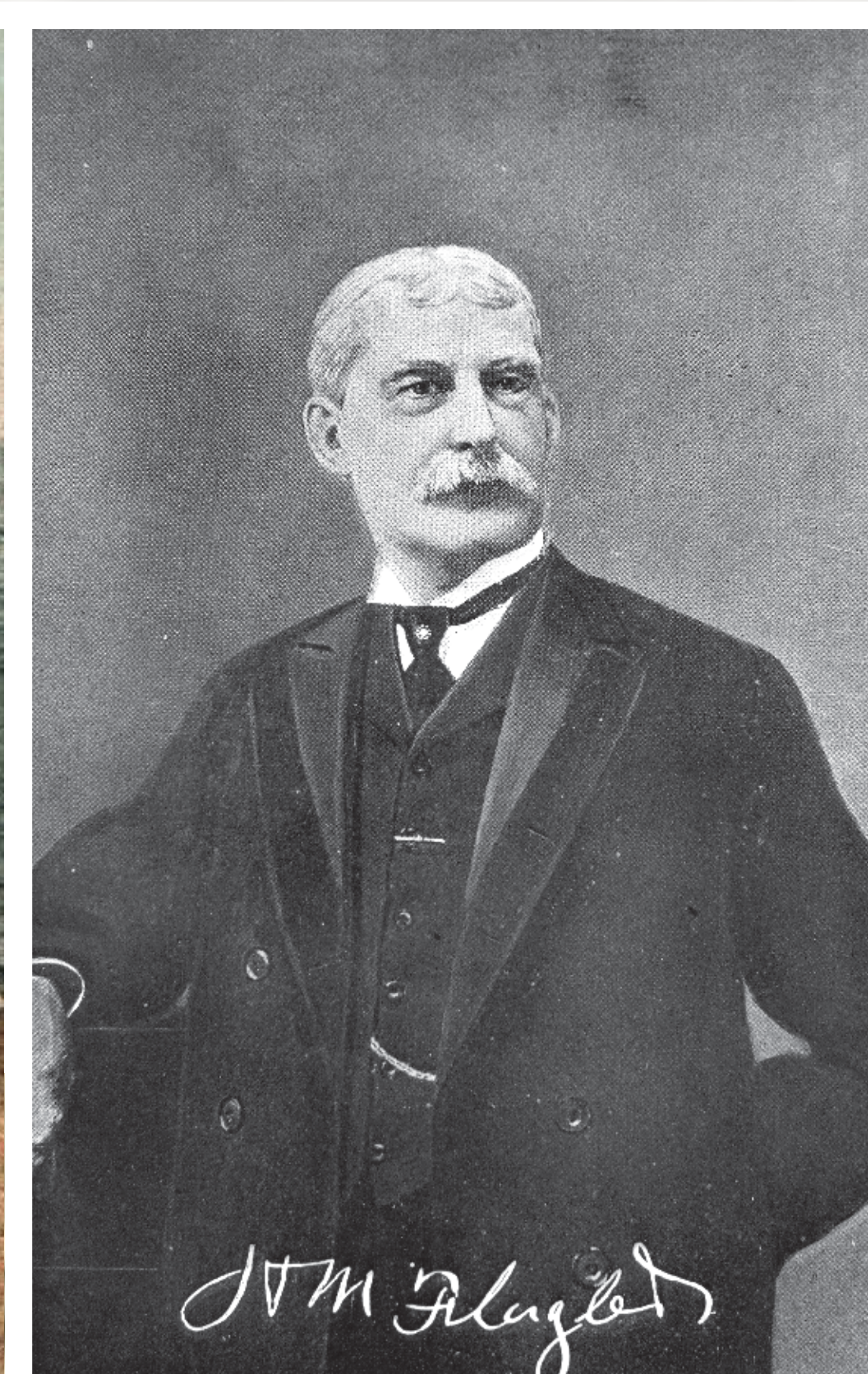
WATER'S ROLE IN SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORY



Florida was one of our nation's last frontiers. As recently as the early 1900s, the southern interior was a vast and foreboding swampland, largely inaccessible. Efforts to tame the watery landscape took many twists and turns, guided by the needs and capabilities of the day.

With waterways as their highways, navigation was the primary concern for the earliest inhabitants. After a series of severe and damaging hurricanes, the need for drainage and flood control became an immediate priority. The availability of fresh water then gained attention after severe drought conditions created critically low water levels and saltwater intrusion threatened coastal water supplies. Restoration took center stage as impacts of urban and agricultural development began to change what was unique to South Florida: Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades, winding rivers and coastal estuaries.

What follows is a chronology of managing water across Florida's southern peninsula. From the earliest activities of Florida's Native American populations to today's flood control and restoration initiatives, this timeline traces 500 years of water resource and management history in South Florida.



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